Serial No. 09/760,560
Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2004

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed October 18, 2004, Applicants have studied the Examiner's comments and the cited art. Claims 1–2, 4–15, 17–22, 24–30, and 32–38 are currently pending; after entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 4–14, 17–22, 24–28, 32–36, and 38 remain pending. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has canceled dependent claims 2, 15, 29, and 37, incorporating their limitations into their respective independent base claims 1, 14, 28, and 35.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4–9, 13–15, 17–22, 27–30, and 32–37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watt, U.S. Patent No. 5,675,615, in view of Iknaian, U.S. Patent No. 5,294,842. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

With respect to independent claims 1, 14, 28, and 35, Watts and Iknaian, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a clock selection device or method as in Applicant's claimed subject matter. The Office Action admits that Watts fails to teach a clock synchronization logic that is independent of the internal clock line, using Iknaian to attempt to fill that gap. However, Iknaian is directed to switching between clock signals originating from a common system clock source that may be skewed in phase because of propagation delays and other processing that can delay signals.[1]

Instead of selecting between clock signals of different frequencies, Iknaian's technique depends upon the input clock signals having the same frequency, only differing phases. The clock synchronization logic of Iknaian can produce clock glitches if the input frequencies are not identical. For example, if the frequency of the B_CLK input signal of Iknaian is higher than the frequency of the A_CLK input signal, so that the pulses of the B_CLK input signal are shorter than the pulses of the A_CLK input signal, the B_SELECT signal may go high before the A_SELECT signal goes low, introducing the B_CLK signal onto the output clock line before the A_CLK signal is removed from the output clock line, which will produce glitches at times depending upon the frequency relationship of the A_CLK and B_CLK signals.[2]

Iknaian nowhere suggests that the clock synchronization logic of Iknaian would be suitable for use with a clock selection device that employs input clock signals of differing frequencies, such as the system of Watts. Indeed, as shown above, the clock synchronization technique of Iknaian can introduce clock glitches if the frequencies of the input clock signals are not identical. Therefore, one of skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the techniques

---

[1] Col. I, lines 48-61.
[2] Figs. 8 and 9; Col. 7, line 49-Col. 9, line 36.

052404.0098 WEST 5648742 v1   11 of 12

of Watts and Iknaian, contrary to the assertion of the Office Action. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Dependent claims 2, 4–9, 13, 17–22, 27, 30, 32–34, and 36 depend from allowable independent claims 1, 14, 28, and 35, and are therefore also allowable. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim Objections

Claims 10–12, 24–26, and 38 are objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 10–12, 24–26, and 38 depend from allowable claims 1, 14, and 35 and are therefore also allowable. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all issues and rejections have been adequately addressed, that all claims are allowable, and that the case should be advanced to issuance.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss the claims, Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Schafer, Reg. No. 45,078

Date: _____1/10/2005_____

AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP
1111 Louisiana Street, 44th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002-5200
Telephone: (713) 220-5800
Facsimile: (713) 236-0822